

The Commonwealth.

E. E. HILLIARD, - - - Editor.
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A WORD WITH THE "ROANOKE NEWS."

Two weeks ago the Roanoke News made the statement that its circulation is double that of any other paper in the county. The statement was made as a matter of fact, while it was purely a guess. The editors of the Roanoke News had no means of knowing our circulation any more than we had of knowing theirs. However, we could not believe that the statement was true, but we did not wish to get into any controversy with our neighbor, so we wrote to the News three times. We first asked if the types made them say what they intended to say, and they replied in the affirmative, and declared that they honestly thought their circulation was double that of any other paper in the county. We answered the News stating that we should contest the statement unless it was backed up by proof, stating at the same time that for the circulation of the News to be double that of THE COMMONWEALTH it must be at least 2,100 every week. Mr. Stainback replied that if the circulation of THE COMMONWEALTH is what we "claimed" of course he was mistaken. He added that he thought our circulation was about 600.

We wrote the News again and asked the editors to make the correction necessary, and we stated that inasmuch as they had gratuitously opened up the question of our relative circulations, we thought it fair for them to state the ratio of the circulation of the two papers. We further stated that they could make the ratio by basing the circulation of THE COMMONWEALTH at 1,050, adding that the ratio could be given without stating the circulation of either paper. We left it for the News to make the proper correction according to its own idea of right.

We wrote three times to avoid any controversy over a matter which concerned no one except the News and THE COMMONWEALTH, supposing that our neighbor's idea of right would cause the proper correction to be made.

The News' idea of right is found in the following paragraph which was printed down in the South-west corner of its local page last week:

"A CORRECTION—Last week we stated that the Roanoke News had double the circulation of any newspaper published in this county, and we honestly believed we were correct, but since that time, Mr. Hilliard of THE COMMONWEALTH writes and says we were mistaken. He claims 1,050 circulation and that being the case our circulation does not double that of THE COMMONWEALTH. We based our calculations on THE COMMONWEALTH's having about 600."

It will be observed that we gave our circulation to our neighbor in confidence, and it publishes our circulation, but says not a word about its own, except this: "We based our calculation on THE COMMONWEALTH's having about 600."

Now, why did not our neighbor give its own circulation alongside of the figures for the circulation of THE COMMONWEALTH?

We gave our circulation in confidence but the News has seen fit to publish our circulation and leave everybody else to guess its circulation as it guessed of THE COMMONWEALTH's.

We did not give the News our circulation for publication, and any reasonable construction of our letter will show it. We simply gave the News our figures in order that it might intelligently calculate the ratio of our circulation. It had unqualifiedly declared its circulation double ours and we thought it right that the ratio should be given as a proper correction.

Can't our neighbor calculate ratio? If not, it ought to have given its own circulation when it published ours. And now THE COMMONWEALTH puts the plain question to the Roanoke News: How much is your weekly circulation?

When our neighbor answers this question squarely we may have some others to put to it.

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BRYAN AT GOLDSBORO, ROCKY MOUNT AND WELDON.

HIS MAGNIFICENT RECEPTION.

Ovation at Every Place.

William Jennings Bryan is the central figure in American politics to-day. His name is spoken more times every day, we doubt not, than that of any other person on the American continent. Mr. Bryan last week made a trip through North Carolina and Virginia. He entered the State near Asheville on Wednesday and left it at Weldon Friday afternoon. His principal speeches in the State were at Asheville, Salisbury, Charlotte, Greensboro, Durham, Raleigh, Goldsboro and Rocky Mount.

AT GOLDSBORO.

Thursday night at Goldsboro his private car was side-tracked a mile or so from town and he took a good night's rest. Before his train reached Goldsboro the town was streaming with decorations of bunting and other things on all sides, and everything bespoke a hearty reception. Early in the day great crowds began to pour in from the surrounding country, and every regular and special train carried packed coaches until by 10 o'clock the town was literally alive with people. A flat car had been used as the foundation of a great rostrum in the middle of Main street. The platform had been built high and strong, and as the thousands packed themselves closely around it to hear the "Boy Orator of the Platte," it was indeed an inspiring sight.

At the appointed hour Mr. Bryan's car rolled in and he was escorted to the stand amid deafening cheers. On the stand were the gentlemen who accompanied Mr. Bryan through the State as his special escort, together with others who had joined from Halifax, Wilson and Edgecombe.

Candidate Bryan was almost lifted to the platform and after the cheering had subsided Hon. C. B. Aycock introduced him in a most eloquent speech of about three minutes.

Mr. Bryan spoke for about forty minutes and the great crowd listened to catch every sentence, though some on the outskirts and in the buildings on either side of the street could not hear. He was evidently much fatigued from his long and tiresome journey from his home in Nebraska. His voice was hoarse and husky from constant speaking for several weeks.

After he had been speaking a few minutes, his voice cleared up and the crowd could hear him fairly well.

Mr. Bryan is truly an eloquent man. His sentences all fall in most rounded and beautiful periods and his earnestness gives emphasis to every word he utters. He spoke only about forty minutes at Goldsboro, and while it was impossible for him to even name the points of interest in the great financial question, he spoke with such directness that all were convinced of the earnestness of his purpose and the truth and cogency of his reasoning.

At the conclusion of his speech the crowd pressed still closer around as he left the stand and were persistent in their efforts to shake his hand. Strong appeals were made by the committee in charge, saying that Mr. Bryan was too tired to shake hands; and as he passed through the great and pressing crowd some near enough to touch him said if they could not shake hands with him they would pat him on the back. And they suited their actions to the words. After a little rest a special train pulled out with Mr. Bryan and his party for Rocky Mount.

The crowd was variously estimated from 5,000 to 10,000, but we had a seat from which we could take in the whole view, and we thought all the estimates too low.

AT WILSON.

At Wilson a stand had been erected not far from the depot and when the train pulled in Mr. Bryan was escorted to the stand from which he spoke to perhaps 3,000 people. Hon. F. A. Woodard introduced Mr. Bryan in an appropriate speech of two or three minutes and the Presidential candidate spoke about 20 minutes. His utterances were greeted with loud and long applause, and while he spoke briefly, he said things that all who heard him will remember.

AT ROCKY MOUNT.

The train rolled along to Rocky Mount. A great and grand parade had been arranged. Bunting and streamers of many kinds floated from tower and steeple and cupola, and flying flags fluttered in the breeze everywhere. The train pulled out on the side track near the fair grounds, and a mounted escort met the party. A carriage drawn by four white horses bore candidate Bryan to the stand in the fair grounds, where a crowd even larger than greeted him in Goldsboro awaited the coming of this great man of the plain people. Thousands of throats shouted a glad hurrah as the carriage rolled slowly into the grounds and Mr. Bryan was escorted to the stand. As soon as quiet could be had Hon. B. H. Bunn arose and in loud, clear tones presented Mr. Bryan to the great crowd of earnest on-lookers and listeners as they were literally melting in the scorching September sun.

Mr. Bryan's voice was still husky and somewhat weak, and he showed great fatigue. He spoke with power and effect for nearly an hour, opening up a

new phase of the money question altogether different from what he said in Goldsboro or Wilson.

The money question seems to be to Mr. Bryan as certain books, which you can open at any chapter and read with interest and profit without regard whatever to the chapters that precede or follow. He seems able to touch any phase of the question with ease at any time.

His speech at Rocky Mount was eloquent and logical and teemed with the well rounded periods that characterize all he says. His illustrations were apt and new, and the wild cheering of the thousands that pressed about the stand bespoke their hearty approval of the sentiments that he expressed.

ON TO WELDON.

Hurrying away from the fair grounds Mr. Bryan and his escort rolled on to Weldon where a large crowd had gathered to see and hear him but a few moments.

At Enfield he stood on the rear platform of the car and bowed to the crowd that had gathered to see the train bearing the Presidential candidate go by. He spoke a few pleasant words and told them he would make them a speech if he had time, but the train pulled out and he went in.

At Weldon the crowd pressed around the rear of the car and Mr. Bryan spoke for only a few moments. He paid a high tribute to woman, which was brought forth by the crowd of ladies who had gathered to get a glimpse at the great man. He said that it was gratifying to note the interest the women are taking in this campaign and he thought it quite fitting that they should be interested, for he thought the oppression of the money power effects the women of the land as much as any other class.

He referred to the pleasure his trip through North Carolina had given him and was especially happy in his reference to the prominent part the North Carolina delegation took in his nomination at the Chicago convention. He thinks North Carolina did more for his nomination than any other State except his own.

Bidding the crowd good-bye, the train pulled out for Richmond and Mr. Bryan waved a farewell to the Old North State.

Mr. Bryan was tired and fagged and unable to make himself heard by all who crowded around him. Under different circumstances his speeches would have had much greater force. But thousands and tens of thousands, and we might almost say hundreds of thousands, of people have seen him, and therewith most of them will be content to vote for him.

William Jennings Bryan is a great personality. Every outline of his features and form tells you that you are looking upon a man in the full sense of the word.

He has a frank, open countenance, a head of the George Washington type, strong and engaging features, a noble eagle-like eye, a captivating smile, a wide mouth, with lines of humor and strength of character blending together in such perfect symmetry that to look upon his face means a life-long memory of a great man.

Mr. W. E. Christian writing to the News & Observer gives an outline of Mr. Bryan's powers, and among other things says this:

"And a face and head, a study of which eludes the pen. The dip at the mouth- corners was enough to put the whole crowd in a fine humor; and when his lips break apart, and his eyes turn sidewise to his friends as if he would enjoy the fun of it with them, he seems to be smiling or laughing just because the thing is absolutely funny in itself, not because he is saying it. If his brow contracts a trifle and the line of his wide mobile mouth begins to straighten into a pensive line, he is passing from the smile to the regions of deeper meaning. Then the change of his eyes is a beautiful study. They are not terrible in their earnestness but appealing in their earnestness; the light suddenly passes from the thought-light under which the fire has been kindled and warmed to the feeling that plumes his deepest propositions with a beauty that thrills. In this phase, there lies poetry, which is much the cause of his musical flow of language, as well as the cause of the unconsciously triumphant bearing of the man when he feels that he has announced a truth and has clinched it. The contour of his face shows strength, mobility, self-reliance, self-control and emotion. His chin comes forward like a reserve force to what he says. He makes no haste; he makes no stagey, rhetorical pauses. But he makes the pauses that give effective music to his utterances, and which at the same time give the people time to think between them."

"Propositions ripen to their full proportions when housed and warmed by his personality. They come to their full growth in this man. He was made to talk to the people; hence it comes to be an art with him. He was made to feel with the people; hence his oneness with them is no odd thing with him. To the naturalness of his powers, perhaps, must be ascribed the freedom from break-down which would overtake other men, who look upon thought as work, or mixing with plain people as condescension. There be many—and all have heard of

them—who have said that this man has been raised up of God to go among the people and lead them. His type does not come often in a century, and when it does come and the people are robbed of the man who is "the people" in himself, then comes the waiting-time for another crisis and the man who will come to meet it. When the people and the man are met as in Wm. J. Bryan, there is great reason for the people to say that God Almighty is taking a hand, and that, though this cloud be dark, and that one ribbed with lightning, the bow of promise must be sure. They know that about four times in a century a Wm. J. Bryan is due, and at every point in the country the people are saying: 'He has arrived!'"

DR. PATTERSON ACCEPTS THE NOMINATION FOR THE LEGISLATURE.

Correspondence to THE COMMONWEALTH.

AURELIAN SPRINGS, N. C. Sept. 19.

To all whom it may concern:

About nine or ten years ago the farmers and wealth producers generally, feeling the burden of governmental abuses too grievous to be borne, formed themselves into a society, the main object of which was the correction of these abuses. They named the society the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union.

Many of the most intelligent and influential citizens of the land united with it, and its rapid gain in members and influence was unprecedented. It imparted information to its adherents, which was indispensable to the intelligent voter. It always advocated the free coinage of silver. It fought and annihilated trusts, established a railroad commission for this State, originated the demand for the income tax, proposed the ownership of the telegraph and telephone system by the government as in the case of the mail service, and insisted upon an elevated tone of morality and good citizenship. It was an institution which the lamented Z. B. Vance pronounced a noble one and consisting of a noble set of men.

Its phenomenal growth excited its leaders well nigh to intoxication, so that they over-estimated its strength and clothing it with the paraphernalia of a political party, gave it the name of the Third party, and endeavoring to force it upon a line with the two old political parties, nominated federal officers and entered the contest.

The writer with some others believed that the strength of the party was over-estimated and that this latter action was premature and ill-advised, and before entering the political arena, time should be allowed for the people to become better acquainted with its aims and objects, also to study its political strength.

But the idea of postponement was scouted, and the writer was cited to the alleged mistake of Beauregard after the first battle of Manassas in not hurrying on to capture the city of Washington. The experiment of putting out candidates was tried and resulted in failure, the party being signally defeated.

Much the larger number of the influential members withdrew and despite the assertion of some of its present adherents that its members are again on the increase, it must be apparent to the observant eye that it has been captured by the office-seekers, and as a general thing carried over, horse foot and dragoons, to the very party which was mainly instrumental in perpetrating the abominable wrongs under which they suffer. In no locality does it seem to be standing on its own bottom and endeavoring to maintain its existence, but as a general thing is selling itself to aid a band of men who being creditors of the government have completely enslaved it and are pursuing a course which if successful will reduce its dupes to a state of profound serfdom and dependence.

The undersigned believes that as a political party it has "gone where the wood-bone twineth."

"Gone glimmering thro' the dreams of things that were, A school-boy's tale, the wonder of an hour."

Holding these views that the subject of financial reform is above all odds the question of the greatest importance, the undersigned will co-operate with the friends of free silver and with those who approve the above principles of the Farmers' Alliance.

The thought of becoming a candidate for political office had not entered his head, until informed by a neighbor that he had been nominated for the Legislature by the friends of free silver. He returns thanks for the undeserved honor and if elected promises to do what he can for the promotion of the above mentioned principles.

R. A. PATTERSON.

(Roanoke News please copy.)

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HARNETT NEWS.

Correspondence to THE COMMONWEALTH.
DUX, N. C., Sept. 21, 1896.

The week just past in our town has been an eventful one. The weather has been very warm, but in spite of the warm weather our farmers have managed to pick and market a lot of cotton. There have been some 1,800 bales sold here already. Last Thursday there were 170 bales sold. The highest price paid was 8 cent.

On Saturday we had a good rain and quite a display of electricity. During the storm Saturday night, Hotel Divine was set on fire by lightning and created some excitement. There was no serious damage done. The store of N. B. Austin also came near being burned by a lamp being turned over, but by timely action the flames were extinguished before any serious damage was done. The store of J. D. Barnes came near being burned by a defective lamp.

Rev. L. R. Carroll has just closed a meeting in the Baptist church. There were no additions to the church, but the church was greatly revived. The Rev. Mr. Edmundson assisted in the meeting.

The Disciples will have a series of meetings this week.

FUSION COMPLETED.

Monday night the committees for Democratic, Populist and Silver parties met in Raleigh and effected complete fusion on the electoral ticket. It is the uniting of the silver forces. The Democrats have five electors, the Populists five and the silver party one. Here is the electoral ticket:

Electors-at-large, Lock Craig, of Buncombe (Democrat).
R. B. Davis, of New Hanover (Populist).
First District—Theo. F. White, of Perquimans (Populist).
Second District—H. F. Freeman, of Wilson (Populist).
Third District—C. R. Thomas, of Craven (Democrat).
Fourth District—W. S. Bailey, of Nash (Populist).
Fifth District—William Merritt, of Person (Populist).
Sixth District—B. F. Keith, of New Hanover (Silver Party).
Seventh District—Theo. F. Klutts, of Rowan (Democrat).
Eighth District—Tyre York, of Wilkes (Democrat).
Ninth District—R. D. Gilmer, of Haywood (Democrat).

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REMEMBER YOU HAVE EVERY ADVANTAGE AT THIS HOUSE

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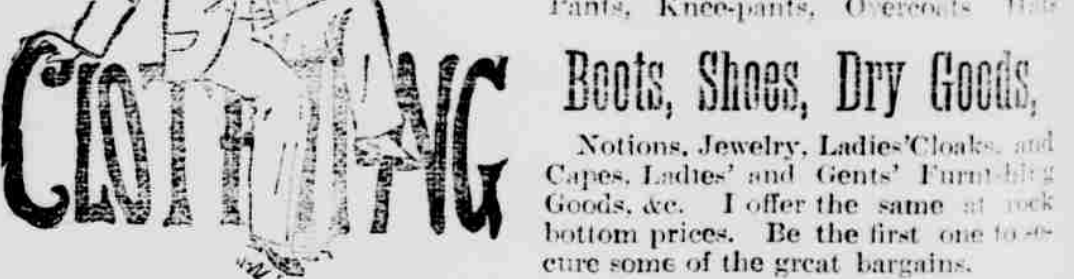
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